

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 00290 250934Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-02 AF-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00
SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 INR-07 IO-14
L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 USIA-15 SS-15
SP-02 DOE-11 INT-05 /122 W
-----000035 250954Z /15
P 250608Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6364

UNCLAS KHARTOUM 0290

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, SU
SUBJECT: DATA FOR THE YEAR 2000 STUDY

REF: STATE 2024

1. CONTACTS WITH SEVERAL SOURCES HAVE PRODUCED
ANSWERS TO SOME OF QUESTIONS IN PARA 4 REFTEL.
WE DO NOT HAVE HIGH DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE IN DATA, BUT
CONSENSUS OF OUR CONTACTS IS THAT DESERTIFICATION
AND DEFORESTATION PROBLEMS IN SUDAN ARE VERY SERIOUS.
FOLLOWING RESPONSES ARE KEYED TO QUESTIONS REFTEL:

2. FORESTRY. ANNUALLY, ABOUT 3 MILLION ACRES
ARE CLEARED--2 MILLION FOR MECHANIZED CROP PRODUCTION
AND 1 MILLION FOR TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE AND
FOREST PRODUCTS. ONLY INSIDE FORESTRY RESERVES
(0.5 PERCENT OF TOTAL AREA OF SUDAN) ARE GOOD FORESTRY
PRACTICES FOLLOWED. EXPANSION OF FORESTRY RESERVES IS
PLANNED TO EXPAND TO COVER 15 PERCENT OF SUDAN
BY 2000. WITHIN RESERVES REFORESTATION IS TAKING
PLACE AT RATE OF 50,000 ACRES PER YEAR. EXISTING
FORESTS ARE SHOWING SEVERE SIGNS OF STRESS.
OVER-GRAZING IS COMMON. 500-800 THOUSAND SQUARE
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PAGE 02 KHARTO 00290 250934Z

KMS. ARE BURNED EACH YEAR REMOVING ABOUT 300 MILLION
TONS OF FOLLAGE. FUEL WOOD CONSUMPTION IS
ESTIMATED AT 30 MILLION STACKED CUBIC METERS.
(NOMADIC TRIBES UPROOT ABOUT 550 MILLION ACCACIA
TREES ANNUALLY FOR FIREWOOD.) DEFORESTATION
HAS CAUSED PRONOUNCED PROBLEMS IN MANY WATER
COURSES IN CENTRAL SUDAN. DESERTIFICATION IS

MOVING SOUTHWARD AT A RATE OF 5-6 KMS PER YEAR ACCORDING TO 1975 STUDY OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RESEARCH. OTHER SOURCES THINK MOVEMENT MAY BE FASTER--PERHAPS 8-10 KMS. PER YEAR. INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE FORESTRY GENERALLY ARE INADEQUATE.

3. SOIL. AS INDICATED BY ABOVE DESERTIFICATION STATISTICS, SUBSTANTIAL AGRICULTURAL LAND IS BEING LOST. ABOUT 600,000 ACRES IN NORTHERN SUDAN ARE AFFECTED BY SALINITY PROBLEMS. SHEET AND GULLY EROSION ARE COMMON PROBLEMS. NO UNIT/TIME ESTIMATES ARE AVAILABLE OF LOSS OF AGRICULTURAL SOIL. CURRENT RAINFED MECHANIZED AGRICULTURAL TECHNIQUES GENERALLY REQUIRE ABANDONMENT OF CULTIVATION AFTER ABOUT 5 YEARS. INTRODUCTION OF DIFFERENT TECHNOLOGIES PERHAPS COULD HAVE MAJOR IMPACT. VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS EXIST TO PROMOTE SOIL CONSERVATION, BUT THEY ARE INADEQUATELY STAFFED.

4. LAND DEVELOPMENT. LAND DEVELOPMENT COSTS VARY SUBSTANTIALLY. IRRIGATED LAND CAN BE DEVELOPED FOR ABOUT 2 THOUSAND DOLLARS PER ACRE. THESE HAVE BEEN ALMOST ENTIRELY PUBLIC COSTS. HOWEVER, IN TERMS OF NEW PRIVATE SECTOR AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENTS, SUDAN HAS STARTED SOME CONCESSIONARY UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 KHARTO 00290 250934Z

ASSISTANCE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE (PUMPS, CANALS) WHEREAS AT TIME OF PROJECT INCEPTION ALL OF THESE COSTS WERE TO BE BORNE BY PROJECT. COSTS OF DEVELOPMENT OF MECHANIZED RAINFED AREAS ARE ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF IRRIGATED COSTS AND GENERALLY ARE PRIVATE COSTS. EXPANSION OF ARABLE LAND WILL HAVE SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT ON CROP PRODUCTION. ABOUT 500,000 ADDITIONAL ACRES OF IRRIGATED LAND WILL BE ADDED IN NEXT 2-3 YEARS AND OTHER PROJECTS TO IRRIGATE MORE THAN 1 MILLION ACRES MAY BE STARTED IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS. ALSO, CULTIVATION OF 3-4 MILLION ADDITIONAL RAINFED ACRES IS PROJECTED IN THE NEXT SIX YEARS.

5. TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE. SCATTERED ESTIMATES ARE AVAILABLE OF WHAT CHANGES A PARTICULAR TECHNOLOGY WOULD PRODUCE. HOWEVER, IN ISOLATION THESE STATISTICS ARE NOT VERY USEFUL. CONCERNING THE 2.3 MILLION ACRE GEZIRA SCHEME, SEVERAL EXPATRIATE AGRONOMISTS HAVE COMMENTED TO EMBOFFS THAT THEY BELIEVE THAT WITH MODEST CAPITAL INPUTS AND SOME NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND INCENTIVES

PRODUCTION COULD BE DOUBLED TO TRIPLED WITHIN
5 YEARS. CHANGES IN RAINFED TECHNOLOGY ALSO
PROBABLY COULD ACHIEVE GREAT INCREASES IN
YIELDS, PARTICULARLY FOR AGERAGE THAT HAS BEEN
CULTIVATED FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DATA, SOIL EROSION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KHARTO00290
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780037-0062
Format: TEL
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780125/aaaaauvb.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c1cfa1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 2024
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3718085
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DATA FOR THE YEAR 2000 STUDY
TAGS: SENV, SU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c1cfa1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014